

LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

RELATIVE

To the joint resolution of Congress for the relief of Bushrod B. Taylor and others, showing the appointment of the board of three officers, as required by the resolution, and their conclusions relative to the cases brought to their notice.

JANUARY 14, 1880.—Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs and ordered to be printed.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, January 13, 1880.

SIR: A joint resolution of Congress, approved February 5, 1879, reads as follows:

JOINT RESOLUTION for the relief of Bushrod B. Taylor and other naval officers.

Be it resolved, &c., That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized to organize a board of three officers not below the grade of rear-admiral, who shall examine into the case of Commander Bushrod B. Taylor, and such other officers of the Navy as did not have an opportunity from any cause whatever to appear before the board created by virtue of the joint resolution of July 1, 1870, as may deem themselves unjustly passed over by the promotions made in conformity with the act of Congress approved July 25, 1866: and such officers shall have the right to appear in person and present to such board their cause of grievance. The board so organized shall report their conclusions to the Secretary of the Navy, who shall report the same to Congress.

In conformity with this resolution a board was appointed, which consisted of Rear-Admirals William E. Le Roy, Stephen D. Trenchard, and George B. Balch, and organized May 1, 1879. They conducted the examinations required under the resolution, and reported their conclusions to the Secretary of the Navy May 26, 1879; and I now have the honor to report the same to Congress.

The conclusions in the cases of twenty-three officers examined into are as follows:

1. Capt. A. C. Rhind. The board report that, according to the wording of the resolution, it is not one upon which they can act, but they are constrained, in justice to this officer, to state that in their opinion manifest injustice has been done to him, and he has never received any substantial recognition of the exceedingly gallant and meritorious services rendered by him. They consider the peculiar circumstances of his case as meriting the favorable consideration and action of Congress.

2. Lieut. Commander Charles D. Sigsbee. Recommended for restoration to his original relative position on the Navy list, next below Robley D. Evans.

3. Lieut. Commander James H. Sands. Recommended for restoration

to his original relative position on the Navy list, next after Charles McGregor.

4. Commodore Timothy A. Hunt. Recommended for promotion to the grade of rear-admiral on the retired list, when a vacancy occurs in said grade, in accordance with sections 1460 and 1461 of the Revised Statutes.

5. Commander Bushrod B. Taylor. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

6. Capt. Joseph S. Sterrett. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

7. Master J. S. Bohrer. Not recommended for promotion.

8. Capt. F. H. Baker. Not recommended for promotion.

9. Lieut. D. W. Mullan. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

10. Capt. Richard L. Law. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

11. Capt. Joseph P. Fyffe. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

12. Lieut. Commander A. G. Kellogg. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

13. Capt. S. L. Breese. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

14. Lieut. Commander W. C. Wise. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

15. Lieut. Commander G. H. Wadleigh. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

16. Capt. Milton Haxtun. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

17. Lieut. Commander Henry Glass. Recommended to be restored to his original position on the Navy-list, next after Commander E. M. Sheppard.

18. Commander Edward P. McRea. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

19. Commander Henry Erben. Recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

20. Commander Oscar F. Stanton. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

21. Capt. Henry Wilson. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

22. Commander William Gibson. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

23. Capt. R. F. R. Lewis. Not recommended for restoration to his original position on the Navy list.

I have the honor to be, &c., your obedient servant,

R. W. THOMPSON,
Secretary of the Navy.

Hon. WM. A. WHEELER,

Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.